

**ICEBREAKER**

What does “worship” mean to you?

What moments in your life would you describe as “worshipful”? Is there one that particularly stands out in your memory?

**VALUING GOD ABOVE ALL****Read Deuteronomy 12:1-14.**

In this passage, God tells his people that they are only to worship him his way and not “as they see fit” or “like the other nations.” What does that say to you?

God also tells his people that they are supposed to “rejoice” and “enjoy” worship. What do you think of that?

**ASIDE ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

On Sunday, I took a bit of a detour to talk about Christian worship. In the past 50 years especially, there has been a consistent and vicious debate inside the church regarding what kind of worship is right. Why do you think Christians disagree so strongly about worship?

We could read a number of passages in the New Testament about worship, but they all boil down to this one. Read John 4:23. What does that mean?

**VALUING GOD MEANS DEVALUING WEALTH**

The rest of this section in Deuteronomy addresses how we view the wealth of this world in relationship to God’s all surpassing worth. Depending on the amount of time you have, pick one or more of the following passages to read and discuss.

- (14:3-21) Eating restrictions (God owns the animals)
- (14:22-29) Tithe (God owns all income)
- (15:1-18) Canceling debts / Freeing slaves (God owns the people around you)
- (15:19-23) Sacrifice firstborn (God owns all income, people and animals!)
- (16:1-17) Celebrate the festivals (God owns your time)
- (26:1-15) Firstfruits / Tithe again

**TAKE IT HOME**

What is this lesson saying to you today about your worship?

What is this lesson saying to you today about your relationship to wealth?

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